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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Advanced Television Systems and
Their Impact Upon Existing Television
Broadcast Service

MM Docket No. 87-268

**COMMENTS OF MOTOROLA TO MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
FOR THE FILING OF REPLY COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO SIXTH
FURTHER NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Motorola hereby submits these comments in response to the request submitted by Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. and Sullivan Broadcasting Company, Inc. (collectively, "Group Owners") to extend the deadline for filing reply comments in response to the Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above captioned proceeding.¹ Motorola believes that the FCC has already provided interested parties with sufficient time to prepare responses to the comments filed on November 22, 1996, and that an additional 60 days would constitute an unwarranted delay in this important proceeding. Motorola would not object, however, to a brief extension of approximately 15 days.

In their motion, the Group Owners request an additional 60 days to prepare reply comments in order to develop "a proposal that will resolve the starkly inequitable status of VHF and UHF stations that is inherent in the major DTV allotment plans that have been advanced to date."² The Group Owners apparently are concerned that the concept of "service replication" will disadvantage existing UHF stations by providing the associated

¹ *Motion For Extension Of Time For The Filing Of Reply Comments In Response To Sixth Further Notice Of Proposed Rule Making*, MM Docket No. 87-268, submitted January 2, 1997.

² *Id.* at 5.

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digital television (DTV) allotment with far less power than that provided to DTV allotments associated with existing VHF stations.³

Motorola has participated in the various phases of the FCC's DTV proceedings for nearly 10 years. Its interests lie in the efficient utilization of the broadcast television spectrum and the impact of that use to the terrestrial land mobile wireless services. To achieve that objective, Motorola has submitted an alternative DTV allotment plan that seeks to minimize the number of DTV allotments in UHF-TV channels 60-69 to expedite the early recovery of that spectrum for land mobile use, particularly public safety services.⁴ Thus, Motorola is affected by the motion of the Group Owners.

Motorola is concerned that extending the reply comment period by another 60 days would further delay a decision on this proceeding. Indeed, Motorola agrees with the FCC's earlier decision to complete the action of adopting an initial DTV Table of Allotments as soon as possible.⁵ Expedited FCC decision making will facilitate the introduction of DTV services to the public and clarify the status of the broadcast television spectrum and its availability for reallocation. Without strong justification, an extension of 60 days does not serve the public interest.

To that end, the Group Owners do not justify their request for an additional 60 days of analysis. While Motorola can appreciate the concerns of the Group Owners regarding the permissible transmitting powers provided to their DTV allotments, the ramifications of "service replication" has been apparent since the release of the Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in mid-August. The FCC has been quite generous in providing time to respond to those proposals -- the initial comments period exceeded three months and the FCC has extended the reply comment period to a full seven weeks. A further delay

³ *Id.* at 2,3.

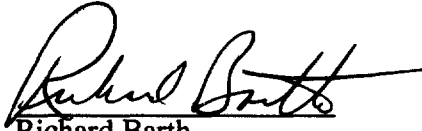
⁴ See Comments of Motorola, MM Docket No. 87-268, submitted November 22, 1996.

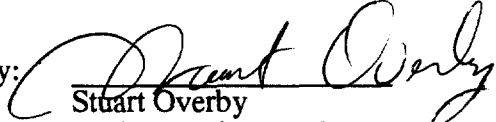
⁵ *Order Extending Time for Filing Reply Comments*, DA 96-1929, released November 20, 1996, at 2.

of two months to address DTV planning factors that representatives of the broadcast industries characterize as "under study for nine years"⁶ is unnecessary. Motorola would not, however, be adverse to a more modest extension, perhaps 15 days, given the intervening holiday season and the large number of comments received in this proceeding.

In conclusion, Motorola believes that the Group Owners have not justified an extension request of 60 days to file reply comments in the above captioned proceeding. While Motorola normally supports providing adequate time to develop a comprehensive record and to ensure the participation of a broad range of interests, we believe that the public has already waited long enough for the benefits of DTV service and the resultant improvements in the efficient use of the broadcast television spectrum. For this reason, Motorola urges the FCC to deny the request by the Group Owners for a 60 day extension and to instead consider only a more modest amount of additional time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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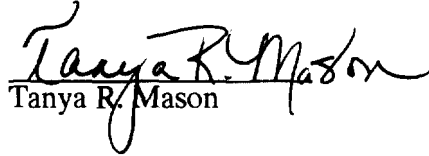
January 6, 1997

Attachment: Certificate of Service

⁶ *Id.* at 1.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Tanya R. Mason, of Motorola Inc. do hereby certify that on this 6th day of January, 1997 a copy of the foregoing "Comments of Motorola to Motion for Extension of Time" was sent to each of the following by hand:


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